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Message Text

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46
ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /023 W
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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OEXC, HU
SUBJ: MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECT ON THE AMERICAN ECONOMY: OCTOBER 11 - NOVEMBER 9, 1976

REF: BUDAPEST 2922, STATE 214094

1. WE ARE MOST GRATEFUL TO DEPT FOR HAVING GRANTED ANOTHER EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS TO REF. PROJECT. KKI'S NOMINEE DR. GYULA KRAJKO FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF SZEGED DID FINALLY COME IN FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PAO ON SEPTEMBER 3. WE NOW HAVE A DIFFICULT DECISION TO MAKE ON WHETHER TO ACCEPT HIM.

2. DR. KRAJKO'S PRINCOPAL PROBLEM IS THAT HIS UNDERSTANDING OF ENGLISH IS INSUFFICIENT TO DERIVE FULL BENEFIT FROM THE PROGRAM. WE ESTIMATE THAT HE WOULD UNDERSTAND AT THE MOST HALF OF THE PROCEEDINGS, AND THEN ONLY PROVIDED HE DEVOTED THE NEXT MONTH TO INTENSIVE LANGUAGE STUDY.

3. KRAJKO'S KNOWLEDGE OF ENGLISH IS EXTENSIVE BUT SUFFERING FROM YEARS OF DISUSE. HE SPENT A YEAR IN ENGLAND IN 1970 AND PRESUMABLY SPOKE AND UNDERSTOOD MUCH BETTER AT THAT TIME. HIS READING COMPRESHENSION NOW IS STILL GOOD, BUT HIS UNDESTANDING OF SPOKEN

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AMERICAN ENGLISH IS POOR.

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4. THE SUITABILITY OF KRAJKO'S PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND FOR PURPOSES OF THIS PROJECT IS ALSO DEBATABLE. HE IS BASICALLY A GEOGRAPHER, ALBEIT CONCENTRATING ON ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY. HE HEADS THE ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SZEGED. HIS KNOWLEDGE AND AWARENESS OF AMERICAN DOMESTIC ECONOMIC ISSUES, NOT TO SPEAK OF THEIR RELEVANCE TO A POLITICAL ELECTORAL PROCESS IS VAGUE AT BEST.

5. IN SPITE OF THESE MAJOR DRAWBACKS, A PERSUASIVE ARGUMENT CAN BE MADE FOR ACCEPTING DR. KRAJKO. HE IS THE FIRST NOMINEE FROM A PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITZIN WHICH EXCEPT FOR ITS ENGLISH DEPARTMENT HAS BEEN TOTALLY CUT OFF FROM CONTACT WITH AMERICAN DEVELOPMENTS FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS. WE HAVE NO BASIS AT THIS TIME FOR DEVELOPING CONTACTS IN UNIVERSITIES, OR FOR LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR A POSSIBLE FUTURE ACADEMIC EXCHANGE PROGRAM UNLESS WE CAN BEGIN BY GETTING A FEW PEOPLE SOME EXPOSURE TO THE UNITED STATES.

6. PAST KKI NOMINEES FOR MULTI-REGIONAL PROJECTS HAVE ON THE WHOLE BEEN HIGHLY SOPHISTICATED, PARTLY BECAUSE THEY WERE SELECTED FROM AMONG THE QUOTE BIG-STARS IN BUDAPEST UNQUOTE. NOW THEY HAVE DECIDED TO AWARD A NOMINATION TO A PROFESSOR AND CHAIRMAN OF AN ACADEMIC DEPARTMENT AT A PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITY. THE NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP COUNCIL, A DIVISION OF KKI WHICH ACTUALLY SELECTS NOMINEES FOR FOREIGN GRANTS AND SCHOLARSHIPS, MADE A DECISION TO START EXPOSING SOME OF THE ACADEMICS FROM PROVINCIAL UNIVERSITIES TO THE BENEFITS OF THE NEW EXCHANGE PROGRAM WITH THE US. PRESUMABLY THEY AGREE WITH US THAT THIS IS AN AREA NEGLECTED IN THE PAST, AND BADLY IN NEED OF A LITTLE JUICING UP.

7. WHILE DR. KRAJKO WOULD SURELY MISSOUT ON AT LEAST HALF OF WHAT IS SAID IN TMVE LECTURES, THE OTHER HALF WOULD OPEN UP FOR HIM A WHOLE NEW WORLD, WHICH ALONG WITH EXPOSURE TO THE UNITED STATES IS CERTAIN TO MAKE A PROFOUND IMPACT ON HIS TEACHING. AND HE DOES TEACH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

QUOTE THE AMERICAN ECONOMY UNQUOTE AS PART OF HIS COURSES TO HUNDREDS OF STUDENTS.

8. SINCE THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY WHATEVER AT THIS LATE DATE FOR KKI TO PRODUCE AN ALTERNATE NOMINEE, WE SUGGEST THAT THE DECISION ON WHETHER OR NOT TO ACCEPT DR. KRAJKO SHOULD BE MADE BY THE DEPT ON THE FOLLOWING CRITERIA: CAN ANOTHER PARTICIPANT BE

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ACCOMMODATED IN THE PROGRAM, WITHOUT KEEPING OUT SOME-
ONE ELSE WHO IS BETTER QUALIFIED. PROFESSOR KRAJKO
WOULD BENEFIT AND LEARN A GREAT DEAL FROM PARTICIPATING.
ON THE OTHER HAND, HE WILL BENEFIT ONLY HALF AS MUCH AS
A FULLY QUALIFIED APPLICANT.

9. BOTH THE APPLICANT AND DREXLER AT KKI WERE ADVISED
FRANKLY BY PAO THAT DR. KRAJKO MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED, AND
WERE GIVEN A FULL EXPLANATION OF THE REASONS. THEY WOULD
BOTH UNDERSTAND A NEGATIVE DECISION, BUT WOULD NATURALLY
PERFER A POSITIVE ONE.

10. BIOGRAPHIC DATA AS FOLLOWS:
DR. GYULA DRAJKO, BORN 7/2/29 HUNGARY.
-- DOCTORATE IN GEOGRAPHICAL SCIENCES,
JOZSEF ATTILA, UNIVERSITY OF SZEGED, 1953
-- PROFESSOR AND CHAIRMAN, DEPARTMENT OF
ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY, UNIVERSITY OF SZEGED.
PAST TRAVEL ABROAD: GREAT BRITAIN, ONE YEAR,
1970; SOVIET UNION, ONE YEAR 1959; EXTENSIVE
SHORT-TERM TRAVEL IN BOTH EAST AND WEST FOR
PREFESSIONAL MEETINGS AND LECTURES.
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